What's New in Program Development

All the news that fits on four pages

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Program Development News

Program Development Debuts New Design Center

Program Development officially opened the doors to its recently completed MSFC Design Center. PD Director Axel Roth stated "This provides the Center with a new collaborative engineering capability for the rapid design of new projects. It will facilitate the simultaneous participation of multiple users at different sites throughout the world via the Internet. It also permits video and teleconferencing via our new Smart Conference Room."

The initial project to use the new design Center is the Rocket Based Combined Cycle (RBCC) Vehicle Concept Study.

MSFC Makes Bid for Environmental Testing of Space Based Laser

PD Director Axel Roth recently led a delegation of Marshall engineers to visit Lockheed-Martin-Denver, TRW-Los Angeles

and the Air Force Space and Missiles Systems Center to market the capabilities and expertise resident at MSFC that are available to the SBL Program. Currently, the two contractors are working on parallel 6-month (\$10M each) concept definition studies. These studies will result in a proposal from each on the first of May. The winning proposer will be given the go ahead to proceed with design and development of the SBL Readiness Demonstrator system.

At Lockheed-Martin and TRW the MSFC team discussed a number of areas of potential support with both management and working level personnel, including structural dynamics, lightweight structures, pointing and control dynamics, fluid dynamics and integration and testing of large payloads. At the Air Force meeting, Bob Armstrong, who heads the SBL activity at MSFC, provided an overview presentation to the Air Force Program Office and contractor representatives. Armstrong reported that the briefings were very well received. "The contractors and the Air Force Program Office appear to be very serious about using existing expertise and assets to support this program. MSFC has tremendous capabilities they can bring to the table, which certainly fits well into this plan."

PD to Study ISS Materials Science Research Rack

PD has been requested to do a concept study for a multipurpose materials science research rack to accommodate furnaces and other ISS experiments. Tom Guffin and Melody Herrmann will lead the three month effort.

Liquid Flyback Booster Study Team Presents Findings

The LFBB study team presented the study findings to Mr. Holloway and his staff at JSC on March 3rd. The presentation included both technical and programmatic material which was well received by Mr. Holloway, who gave his approval for carrying the presentation forward to NASA Headquarters. The LFBB study team presented the study findings to Mr. Oswald and his staff at NASA Headquarters on March 9. Mr. Oswald and his staff are presently preparing a briefing in response to a Congressional inquiry, and were scheduled to meet with Congressional staff on March 27.

Orbiter Towing Proposed for Contingency Reboost of the International Space Station

Program Development engineers have determined that the versatile Space Shuttle orbiter can provide the International Space Station (ISS) a contingency reboost capability from earliest assembly through assembly complete. The capability already exists for Orbiter direct attached reboost of early ISS assembly stages. Orbiter towing reboost is proposed by PD engineers for later ISS assembly stages and beyond, to minimize Orbiter induced structural stress and exhaust contamination on ISS.

The proposed towing concept requires no modifications to either ISS or the Orbiters. This concept employs a three kilometer nonconducting expendable tether, a small reusable tether deployer, and reusable tether attachment hardware. The Orbiter "tows" the ISS to a higher orbit by simply imparting additional velocity through use of a tow line and the Orbiter's propulsion system.

The best option identified to develop and demonstrate Orbiter towing hardware and operations for ISS reboost utilizes a Progress-M flight demonstration. Such a flight demonstration has been discussed with the Russians and was recently proposed to Mr. Frank Culbertson, Manager, Phase I Program.

New Space Industries Workshop Held in DC

The New Space Industries Workshop was held February 23–25, 1998, at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. The workshop was organized by David Smitherman, Program Planning Office, and supported by John Mankins of NASA HQ. "The workshop was very successful in drawing out new ideas for the development of space and forging new relationships with industry, " Smitherman stated. The final report of the workshop is in preparation and will be made available on the web.

BOLAS Fails to Receive Funds

Word has been received that the Bistatic Observations With Low Altitude Satellites (BOLAS) project was not selected by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) for funding to complete the project. The Phase A work ended last December. BOLAS was competing with five other small Canadian satellite projects for continued funding to complete the Phase B and Phase C/D work.

The PD "How To" Page

How to Schedule the MSFC Design Center and Smart Conference Room

Call Sandra Holland (4-0461) or her alternate Janie Crawford (4-0514) to schedule either room. If you are unsure of how to use the equipment, call Don Thurman at 4-1908 or Jeff Dunnivant at 4-5747 for technical help. Priority will be given to users requiring the unique capabilities of these facilities. Routine meetings should be held in other Conference Rooms.

More About the Program Development Design Center And Smart Conference Room

A location has been setup to display information about the Design Center and the Smart Conference Room. The location is a Microsoft NT server and is accessible by either Mac or PC. This particular server volume is intended for INFORMATION ABOUT THE TWO ROOMS only. Please don't think of it as your storage space. Information contained in the server at this time includes the following:

SCHEDULING

How to schedule either of the rooms and arrange for your conference to be available to other parties.

CONTACTS

A list of the Collaborative Engineering contacts at the Centers and Headquarters.

WISH LIST

A list of equipment or features requested by users of the facility. Anyone can add to the list, but you must include your name, cost of the item, and be willing to go before management and show why the item is needed and why now.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Macintosh Users:

In the Apple Menu, select "Chooser". In the "Chooser", select Appleshare and then AppleTalk Zone "MSFC 4203 PD01" and then Fileserver "MSFCPD03", and click "OK".

If requested to "Select a logon method", select "Apple Standard UAMs", and click "Okse" "Connect to..." box, select "Guest" and click "OK". In the "MSFC PD03" box, select "Design Center" and click "OK". The icon for the Design Center Server will appear on your "Desktop". Close the "Chooser".

PC Users:

From the "Desktop", open the icon "Network Neighborhood". In the "Network Neighborhood" window, open "Entire Network" window, open "Msfcard". In the "Msfc-ard" window, open "Msfcpdo3". In the "Msfcpdo3" window, open "Design Center".

The information in this location will be amended or expanded as we become more familiar with the new systems.

Program Development Announcements and Events

It's Official...

Whitt Brantley has been appointed Director of the Advanced Systems Office

New WebSite for PD's OWI's Announced

Don Thurman has announced a new WebSite address for the PD OWI's. Please bookmark the following address: http://masterlist.msfc.nasa.gov/pa/. To avoid confusion, all shortcuts, bookmarks, or aliases to the old location should be eliminated, since it no longer exists.

Volunteers for PD Booth Needed at Open House

Volunteers are needed to staff the PD booth at our upcoming Open House. Please see the web link on the Inside Marshall home page, or contact Dan O'Neil (4-6618) to volunteer.

PD Announces new Hot Line

Program Development is pleased to announce our new Hot Line. This number can be used to communicate your new ideas and suggestions on how we can improve our customer services, our marketing skills, help you define a concept, or sell an idea, etc. The Hot Line Contact is Terry Mitchell at 4-3962.

Name the Newsletter Contest

Do you have a better name for our newsletter? If so, please submit your

suggestion to Terry Mitchell. The winning name will be announced in the next issue. In addition to 15 minutes of fame and glory, the winner will receive a FREE subscription to the newsletter.

From the Editor...

We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of the PD Newsletter and find it informative. Our mission is to improve communications within PD and with our outside customers. We plan to publish the newsletter every other month or as required to keep our employees, suppliers and customers informed about the many exciting activities going on in Program Development. We would appreciate your comments or suggestions on ways to improve the newsletter. We also solicit articles and ideas for publication in future editions. Please submit all contributions to the address below.

Submit questions and contributions to:

Terry R. Mitchell, Managing Editor Chief, Program Plans & Requirements Office/PP02

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